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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HOAN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/633,782

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

HOAN C. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manakata (US6373540B1) in view of Yang et al. (US6151089A).

In regard to claims 1 and 2, Manakata teaches (Figs. 2A-2D, 3A-J, col. 7 line 42 to col. 9 line 36) a liquid crystal display device comprising:

- display panel (by turning upside down or 180° a whole liquid crystal cell, please see Respond to Arguments) including a lower layer 1 at the lowest portion of the display panel and an uppermost layer 2, positioned above the lowest layer at the uppermost portion of said display panel;
- first substrate (lower substrate 2) forming an uppermost layer of said display panel including
  - a) a switching element (thin film transistor 8) on the first substrate
  - b) a passivation film (interlayer insulating film 20) formed over the whole surface of the first substrate while covering the switching element;
  - c) a pixel electrode (light reflection layer 9 acting as pixel electrode) on the passivation film;

- d) a black matrix BM formed on the passivation film and over the switching element;
  - e) a color filter (planarizing layer 14 made by coloring photoresists) formed over the pixel electrode;
  - f) a first orientation film 15 formed on the black matrix and the color filter and above the pixel electrode.
- a second substrate (upper substrate 1) aligned with the first substrate having a common electrode 6 and a second orientation film 7, the orientation film formed on the common electrode;
  - sealing the first and second substrates with a sealant; This is a well known prior art for keeping liquid crystal layer from environment.
  - a liquid crystal layer 3 interposed between the first and second substrates.

In regard to claim 12, Manakata teaches (Figs. 2A-2D, 3A-J, col. 7 line 42 to col. 9 line 36) a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display device, which comprises an array of thin film transistors and an array of pixel electrodes including:

- forming a gate line and a gate electrode on a first substrate said first substrate forming the uppermost layer of a display panel, the gate electrode extending from the gate line;
- forming a gate insulating layer 17 on the exposed surface of the upper substrate while covering the gate line and the gate electrode;
- forming a semiconductor layer 18 over the gate electrode;

Art Unit: 2871

- forming a data line and source and drain electrodes 21/22, the source electrode overlapping one end portion of the semiconductor layer, the drain electrode overlapping the other end portion of the semiconductor layer, the source and drain electrodes spaced apart from each other, the source electrode extending from the data line;
- forming a passivation film 20 over the whole surface of the first substrate while covering the source and drain electrodes, the passivation film having a contact hole on the drain electrode;
- forming a pixel electrode (reflective layer 9 could act as pixel electrode) on the passivation film, the pixel electrode electrically connected with the drain electrode through the contact hole;
- forming a color filter 14 on the pixel electrode;
- forming a black matrix BM over the thin film transistor
- forming a first orientation film 15 on the color filters and the black matrices;
- forming a common electrode 6 on a second substrate;
- forming a second orientation film 7 on the common electrode;
- aligning the first substrate turned upside down with the second substrate so that the first orientation film of the first substrate is opposite to the second orientation film of the second substrate with a gap there between to prevent degradation of the contact resulting from the mixing of dispersed light;

It is well known prior art that

Art Unit: 2871

- sealing the first and second substrates with a sealant; and injecting a liquid crystal between the first substrate and the second substrate.
- The common and pixel electrodes made of ITO for transparent property.

However, Munakata fails to disclose a second substrate formed adjacent a backlight device to prevent the degradation of contrast resulting from the mixing of dispersed light.

Yang et al. teach (fig. 2) a second substrate 1 formed adjacent a backlight device to prevent the degradation of contrast resulting from the mixing of dispersed light.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify a liquid crystal display device as Munakata disclosed with a second substrate formed adjacent a backlight device for supplying light to the liquid crystal layer.

2. Claims 3-8 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manakata (US6373540B1) in view of Yang et al. (US6151089A) as applied to claims 1, 2 and 12 above, in view of Ono et al. (US5847781A).

Ono et al. teach (Figs. 3 and 7, col. 7 lines 5-16) a liquid crystal display device further comprising a light absorbing film AS formed under the semiconductor layer d0 and under the source electrode or data line DL or drain electrode SD1 for reducing reflecting or scattering from source and drain electrodes or data lines, and therefore resulting in dark display

Art Unit: 2871

However, Ono et al. fail to disclose a light absorbing light obviously also is formed under the gate line or gate electrode.

For reducing reflecting or scattering from metal layers, which form source, drain and gate electrodes or data and gate lines, and therefore resulting in dark display, a light absorbing light obviously also is formed under the gate line or gate electrode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify a liquid crystal display device as Munakata disclosed with a first light absorbing film forming between the first substrate and the gate electrode; and a second light absorbing film forming between the semiconductor layer and the gate insulating layer for reducing reflecting or scattering from source, gate drain electrodes or data and gate lines, and therefore resulting in dark display.

3. Claims 9-11 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manakata (US6373540B1) in view of Yang et al. (US6151089A) as applied to claims 1, 2 and 12 above, in view of Ono et al. (US5847781A) as applied to claims 3 and 4 above, and in further view of Lee et al. (US6177973B1)

Lee et al teach (Fig. 1A col. 2 lines 37-45) a liquid crystal display device, wherein the common electrode made of an opaque conductive material of Aluminum or chromium, which is used to make light shielding or reflecting electrode. Thus, an opaque-conductive material may also be used for a reflective type liquid crystal display.

Art Unit: 2871

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify a liquid crystal display device as Munakata disclosed with the common electrode made of an opaque conductive material of Aluminum or chromium for light shielding or reflecting.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 1/14/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY arguments are follows:

Munakata fails to disclose or suggest a second substrate having no switching element disposed thereon, forming said lowest portion of the display panel and aligned with the first substrate and having bottom surface thereof formed adjacent to a back light device and said back light device being disposed beneath said second substrate.

Examiner's responses to Applicants' ONLY arguments are follows:

If the liquid crystal display cell disclosed by Munakata is turned upside down or 180°, the upper substrate 1 will become the lowest substrate or second substrate, which is provided the light source on the back, and the lower substrate 2 will become the uppermost substrate or first substrate, on which TFT and color filter are formed.

Nevertheless, the liquid crystal cell of Related art (Fig. 2) in this application turned upside down or 180° will become the preferred embodiment (Fig. 4). If there is



Art Unit: 2871

any advantage of "turning upside down or 180°" of the liquid crystal cell, please provide the evidences.

**Conclusion**


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOAN C. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 306-0472. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY:8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SIKES L WILLIAM can be reached on (703) 308-4842. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-8178 for regular communications and (703) 308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0530.

HOAN C. NGUYEN  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2871

chn  
February 5, 2003

  
JAMES DUDER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER